

# *The* **PEACE RIVER**

**A Great Waterway  
of the North West**



*Steamer "D. A. THOMAS"*

**MODERN VOYAGING ON THE OLD  
TRADE ROUTES OF THE PAST**

**Peace River Development Corporation  
LIMITED**

**(Transport Department)**

**PEACE RIVER ∴ ALBERTA**

**Head Office:**

**CREDIT FONCIER BUILDING, VANCOUVER, B.C.**

*For further information, reservations, etc. apply to*  
**Faulds Financial and Travel Bureau, Ltd.**

**General Railway, Steamship & Insurance Agency  
Financial & Foreign Exchange Brokers**

**626 Hastings St. W. (STRAND BLDG.) Vancouver, B.C.**

## PEACE RIVER LAND DISTRICT.

*Information supplied by the Natural Resources Intelligence Branch of the Canadian Government, Ottawa.*

**T**HIS district, now fast coming into prominence as a desirable one for settlement, is the largest of the three land districts comprised in the general term, "Peace River Country." It contains nearly 40,000,000 acres, of which over 4,000,000, or ten per cent., have been surveyed and are open for location.

**SOIL.**—Speaking generally, the soil is a rich, black loam, suitable for all kinds of agriculture, and especially well adapted to mixed farming.

**CLIMATE.**—The climate is less rigorous than in many portions of the Northwest which have a considerably lower latitude. Being situated almost entirely within what is known as the Mackenzie Slope, the elevations are for the most part lower, and the climate is much tempered by the Chinook winds which prevail for a great portion of the winter.

**TRANSPORTATION.**—Hitherto, the one great drawback to the opening up of the district has been the lack of transportation facilities. A journey from Edmonton to the town of Peace River, which five years ago consumed nearly two weeks of toil and hardship, may now be made in less than twenty-four hours in comfort at all times of the year. The railway is now running into this town twice a week. There is also sleeping and dining-car accommodation on this train. "Easily accessible" may now be written in truth of this new and wonderful country. Large steamers are now plying regularly on the Peace.

**MAIL SERVICE.**—The country is well supplied with mail accommodation. Contracts call for a twice-a-week service from Peace River town to nearly all the larger settlements. Telephone and telegraph communication can be had to almost every point, and the producer is brought into close touch with Edmonton.

**MARKETS.**—The advent of the railway has given an outlet to the markets of Edmonton and the south.

**SCHOOLS.**—The school system is one of the best in the Dominion.

**CHURCHES.**—All religious denominations are well represented.

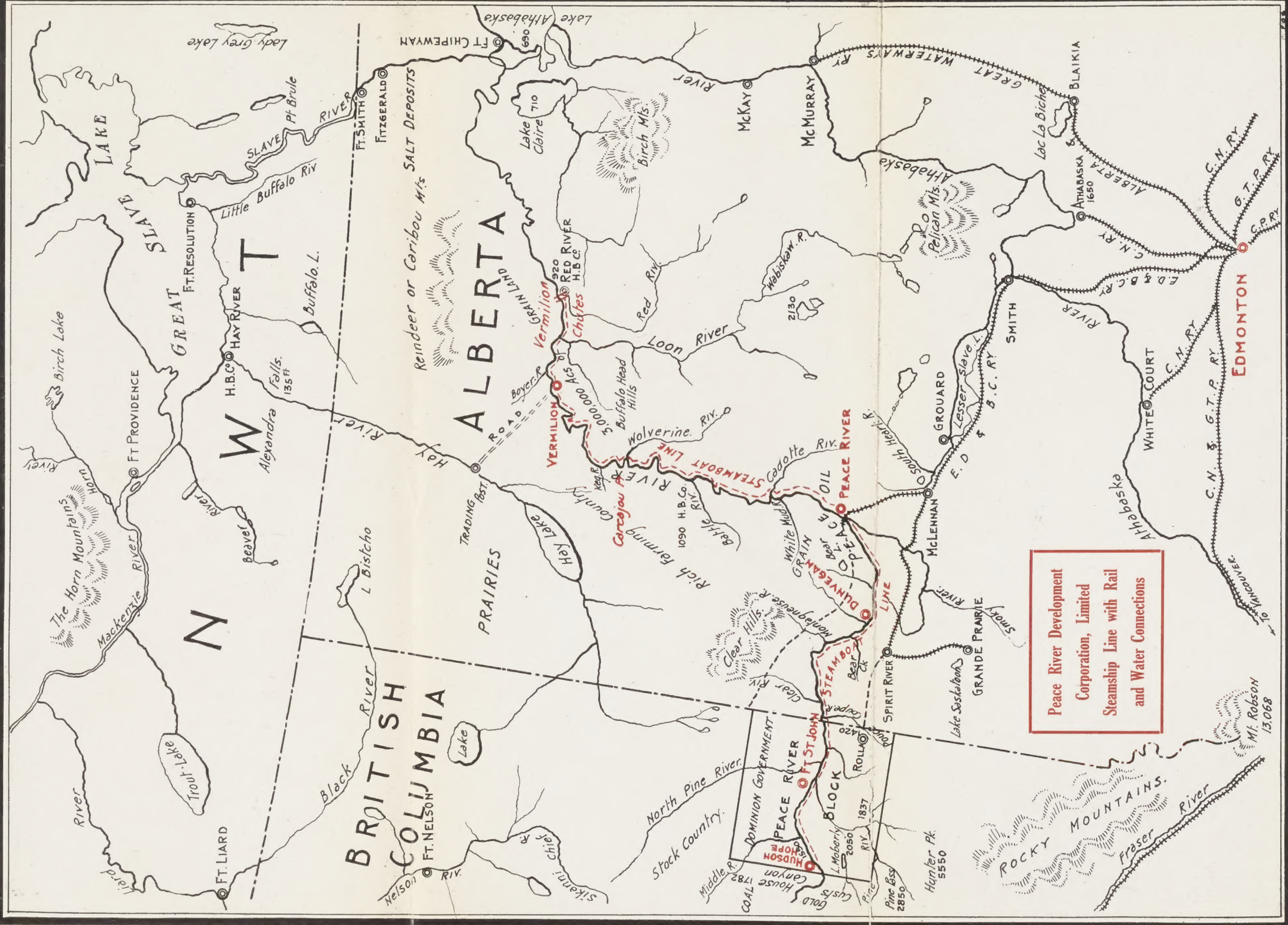
**FUEL AND WATER.**—Wood suitable for fuel is abundant in many portions of the district, and coal is being uncovered in several directions. Many small lakes and rivers are to be found. In every place it is possible to obtain excellent water by the sinking of wells.

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*N. B.—Further information as to these lands may be obtained from the following: F. C. C. Lynch, Superintendent, Natural Resources Intelligence Branch, Ottawa; the Dominion Land Agent, Peace River, Alberta; W. H. Clegg, Dominion Immigration Agent, Edmonton, Alta.*

For further particulars as to tickets, fares, freight rates, etc., apply to Peace River Development Co., Ltd., Peace River, Alberta, or to the District Traffic Manager, Edmonton, Dunvegan, or Banff Railway, General Railway, Steamship & Insurance Agency, Financial & Foreign Exchange Brokers, 626 Hastings St. W. (STRAND BLDG.) Vancouver, B. C.





Peace River Development Corporation, Limited Steamship Line with Rail and Water Connections

Mt. Robson 13,068



# PEACE RIVER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, LTD. TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

CREDIT FONCIER BUILDING, VANCOUVER, B. C.

## STEAMER "D. A. THOMAS."

This palatial new steamer was laid down at Peace River, Alta., in August, 1915, and was completed in May, 1916. It is 170 feet long, 40 feet broad, and carries two 25-ton boilers, capable of developing 1,000 horsepower. The steamer's nominal freight load is 300 tons. There is accommodation for 250 passengers.

The "D. A. Thomas" contains over forty staterooms, a dining-room to seat 100 persons, a roomy smoking-room, ladies' cabin, baths, etc., and is equipped with electric light throughout. All furnishings and equipment are absolutely first-class, as is also the cuisine, to which special attention is paid.

## FARES.

Edmonton to Peace River (special round trip tourist fare, E. D. & B. C. Ry., including war tax).....	\$17.10
Sleeping car fare, Edmonton to Peace River (buffet car, service of meals <i>a la carte</i> ).....	2.75
Edmonton to Vermilion Chutes, Alta., and return.....	57.10
Edmonton to Hudson's Hope, B. C., and return.....	52.10
Peace River to Vermilion Chutes, Alta., and return, steamer "D. A. Thomas" .....	40.00

Above rates include berths on steamer.

Round trip from Peace River to Vermilion Chutes, and return, or from Peace River to Hudson's Hope, and return, occupies about five days and four days, respectively.

## 1919 SCHEDULES

### EDMONTON, DUNVEGAN & BRITISH COLUMBIA RAILWAY.

Monday	{	10.00 a.m. Lv.....Edmonton.....Ar. 4.30 p.m.	{	Wednesday
Thursday				Saturday
Tuesday	{	11.30 a.m. Ar....Peace River....Lv.....5.50 p.m.	{	Tuesday
Friday				Friday

(Buffet sleeping-car, serving meals *a la carte*.)

On arrival at Peace River, passengers may go aboard steamer directly, and on return from trips up or down stream may remain on board until departure of train.

## Peace River Development Corporation, Ltd. Steamer "D. A. THOMAS"

Peace River to Vermilion Chutes and return.

Subject to change without notice, steamer leaves Peace River for Fort Vermilion, and, when traffic warrants, Vermilion Chutes, on Fridays, May 16th and 30th; June 13th and 27th; July 11th and 25th; August 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th; and September 5th.

Miles		Alt.
0	Peace River, Alta. ....	1225
100	Battle River, Alta. ....	1090
150	Careajou Point, Alta. ....	1040
280	Fort Vermilion, Alta. ....	975
330	Vermilion Chutes, Alta. ....	925

### PEACE RIVER, ALTA., TO HUDSON'S HOPE, B. C., AND RETURN

Subject to change without notice, steamer leaves Peace River Fridays, May 23rd; June 6th and 20th; July 4th and 18th; and August 1st.

Miles		Alt.
0	Peace River, Alta. ....	1225
12	Shaftesbury, Alta. ....	1235
70	Dunvegan and Spirit River Junction, Alta. ....	1305
160	Pouce Coupe, B. C. ....	1420
200	St. John, B. C. ....	1462
240	Hudson's Hope, B. C. ....	1550

Sailing dates and fares for Fitzgerald, Fort Smith, and all points north of Vermilion Chutes, furnished on application.

In cases where through tickets to Peace River are not issued, passengers can secure from the ticket agent of the Edmonton, Dunvegan & B. C. Railway, at Edmonton, through tickets covering the rail and steamship journey north at the rates quoted above.

For tickets, reservations, etc., apply to Agents shown overleaf.



Plowing with dogs, Hay River Settlement, N. W. T.

(OVER)

**T**HE Peace River is one of the great waterways of the Canadian Northwest, and has for long been used as a means of communication by hardy pioneers and trappers.

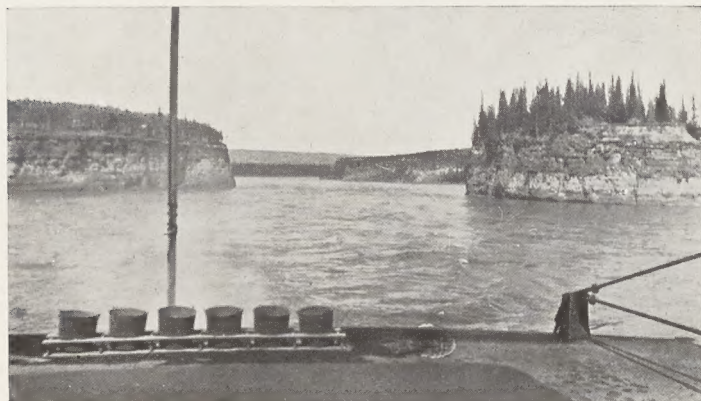
This old trade route of the north was first discovered by Sir Alexander Mackenzie when making his historic expedition across the North American continent in 1792-1793.

In addition to being a famous fur-producing region, the Peace River country has for many years been known as rich in minerals, and as containing millions of acres of the finest grain-growing and stock-raising land in Canada.

As long ago as 1886, grain from Fort Vermilion, on the Peace River, some 500 miles due north of Edmonton, won the world's prize at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition.

Lack of transport facilities prevented the development of this rich country until early in 1916, when the Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia Railway was completed to the town of Peace River. At the same time, realizing the great possibilities of the north, Lord Rhondda, through the Peace River Development Corporation, Limited, put into service the large and up-to-date steamer, "D. A. Thomas," which was built at Peace River during the winter of 1915-1916.

A new travelling experience is consequently now available for those who like to find the unusual and at the same time be assured of perfect comfort and convenience, by the inauguration of service on 570 miles of the Peace River, in a well-appointed steamer of comfortable dimensions and luxurious appointments.



*The Gates of the Peace, eight miles below Hudson's Hope, B. C.*

The town of Peace River, situated at the junction of the Peace and Smoky Rivers, has a population of approximately 1,000. It is a thoroughly modern town, with three banks, ten general stores, livery barns, two weekly newspapers, etc., so that visitors can be assured of all necessary banking, store and other facilities.

At Peace River, passengers embark upon the steamer "D. A. Thomas," a vessel comparable with the luxurious packet boats of the great days of navigation on the Mississippi River, although equipped with modern conveniences and luxuries unknown at that time.

### **TOURISTS**

Tourists will find a trip on the Peace River a unique and delightful experience. ~~Many new~~ oil-drilling plants may be seen in operation along the river, and these, in comparison with the old Hudson's Bay trading posts, which are a feature of the trip, form a striking example of the progress of modern civilization. Bear, moose, lynx and fox are frequently seen in the morning and at twilight along the river banks.

The river banks are well timbered with poplar, jackpine, spruce and birch, and the varying shades of green reflected by the play of light and shadow in the deep valley of the





*The Vermilion Chutes, Peace River*

Peace, makes a picture that the traveller long remembers. In addition, the sunsets on the river are epics of beautiful color and brilliancy that are not easily forgotten.

Thirty miles above Hudson's Hope, B. C., which is the head of steamer navigation, the Peace boils and thunders through an impassable, narrowing canyon, which elbows so sharply that the portage road across the apex to Hudson's Hope is only 13 miles long. At Dunvegan is a log church built in 1884 by Bishop Grouard, who beautifully decorated the interior with paintings executed on moose hides procured by the Indians, no canvas being available in the district at that time.

Five hundred and seventy miles downstream from Hudson's Hope, and 625 feet lower in elevation, the Peace has gathered a mighty sweep of water, a mile and a half wide, which cascades through the Vermilion Rapids and over the Vermilion Falls. In describing these falls, Agnes Deans Cameron, in her book, "The New North," writes:

"The Chutes of the Peace! These will live forever with the ramparts of the Mackenzie as the two most majestic visions which the whole North Land gave us. . . . The torrent roars for four or five hundred yards of rapid riverway before coming to its great drop. The rock-reef over which the cataract falls extends quite across the mighty Peace, here a river of immense width. Measured in feet and inches, the Chutes of the Peace must take second place to Niagara, yet they impress us as Niagara never did."

### SPORTSMEN

The principal fur-bearing animals are badger, bear, beaver, wolverine, fisher, fox, lynx, wolf, marten, mink, otter, muskrat, skunk, weasel and coyote—the annual fur catch being estimated at over \$2,000,000.



*Musk ox, Twelve hundred miles north of Edmonton*

Moose and cariboo are found in all the timbered sections.

Wild duck and geese are plentiful and afford excellent sport.

Whilst the Peace River itself is not a good fishing stream, the many tributary lakes and rivers abound in fish—whitefish, grayling, trout and goldeyes being very plentiful.

### MINING ENGINEERS

Mining engineers will find a trip on the Peace River well worth while. In the vicinity of Hudson's Hope, B. C., coal of excellent quality is found. Further west, gold-bearing sands are being developed. Rich discoveries of copper and silver-lead ore have recently been made in this section.

In the vicinity of Peace River town oil-drilling operations are in progress, and confidence is expressed that a large producing oil field will be developed.

Indications of natural gas and oil are found all along the Peace River, and oil-drilling has been carried out as far north as Vermilion Chutes. On the banks of the Peace River below Vermilion Chutes are cliffs of good gypsum. In the Salt River district salt deposits of large extent are met with. Further north very rich deposits of copper and other minerals have been discovered.

### SETTLERS AND FARMERS

Settlers and farmers should avail themselves of the excellent facilities provided by the steamer "D. A. Thomas," to look



*Wheat field, Peace River district*

over the Peace River country, probably the only district in Canada where excellent homesteads are still available for the asking. One hundred and sixty acres free, the only charge being \$10.00 filing fee.

The climate of the Peace River country and Northern Alberta is exceptionally even, there being no sudden changes from one extreme to the other. It is hot enough in the summer to ripen grain and vegetable crops, but not too hot for physical comfort. It is cold enough in the winter to insure seasonable soil changes, but not cold enough to prevent live stock feeding in the open.

Between Dunvegan and Peace River town, on the north bank, are the recently developed districts of Waterhole, Bluesky, and Bear Lake. To the south, beginning at Pouce Coupe, 80 miles below Hudson's Hope, is a succession of fast-growing agricultural communities, all served directly by the Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia Railway, including the towns of Spirit River, Clairmont, and Grande Prairie, while the Lake Saskatoon and Beaver Lodge districts are within easy reach, by excellent wagon roads, of the above towns and the railway.

The Vermilion district lies 280 miles downstream from Peace River. Dominion Government surveyors report that it





*Vegetable garden, Peace River*

contains over three million acres of the finest grain-growing land in Canada.

A recent shipment of 10,000 bushels of high-grade wheat from Vermilion was carried by the steamer "D. A. Thomas" to the E., D. & B. C. Railway, at Peace River, en route to Europe via Fort William and the Great Lakes.

In the Peace River district the land varies. There are sections particularly adapted for grain-growing; other sections are better situated for mixed farming, while others are exceptionally suitable for stock-raising and dairying. There is, as well, considerable wooded land, grazing areas with abundance of grass, open country, prairie lands, coulees, valleys, etc.

From actual and practical tests, the Peace River district has been proven to be one of the best grain-growing districts of the marvellously productive western plains. Wheat grown at Shaftsbury Settlement, 18 miles upstream from Peace River, carried off the first prize at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. The soil and climate are of the best. The soil is a thick, black loam, as much as twenty-two inches deep, with a clay subsoil.

The growth of wheat, oats, barley and other cereals, as well as roots and vegetables, is equal to that of any other temperate climate. As will be seen from the statistics taken from the returns for the experimental stations in the north country, grain sown early in May ripens about the middle of August, thus avoiding early frosts. This rapid growth is due to the long hours of sunshine in the summer months. From June 1st to September 1st there are from 14 to 20 hours of sunshine daily. While the growth is thus rapid, the grain matures splendidly and is of the best quality.

The desirability of the country as an agricultural area is demonstrated by the fact that there has never been a crop failure in the Peace River district.



*Typical farm on the Peace River*